



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yasuhide OTSU et al.

Application No.: 10/507,326

Filed: September 10, 2004

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING BRITTLE MATERIAL

Attorney Docket No.: APA-0215

Examiner: S. M. Heinrich

Art Unit: 1725

Confirmation No.: 4008

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop RCE**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**I. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits after filing the accompanying Request for Continued Examination filed and in response to the final Office Action dated March 15, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16-24 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 17-20 are canceled, claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 14 and 16 are amended and claims 21 - 24 are added.

**II. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

(There are no amendments to the drawings)

**III. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

(There are no amendments to the specification)